

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*



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Contact Person: Radka Barter
508-821-1000

O'Connell Proclaims February as Black History Month

Taunton, MA . . . Today Mayor Shaunna O'Connell issued a proclamation designating February as Black History Month and encouraged Taunton residents to participate in programs, ceremonies and activities designed to educate, celebrate and recognize the many contributions of our African American citizens.

"Black History Month is important for many reasons. It is a time to learn about and celebrate the history of African Americans and is also a time to acknowledge that there is still work to be done in achieving equality in our society," O'Connell said.

Black History Month began as a week-long celebration titled Negro History Week in 1926. Initiated by Carter G. Woodson, Founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the celebration was expanded to a month and officially recognized by President Ford in 1976.

The City of Taunton has established a "Black History Month" section on the Home page of the city website for the month of February and has engaged in a daily online post focused on different aspects of African American history. The daily post is also shared on the City of Taunton Facebook page.

The Mayor's Office will be partnering with local organizations to create and share different activities and programs related to Black History Month throughout the month of February. Beginning with an Old Colony History Museum blog post about Hattie Cunningham, a beloved African American activist and teacher in Taunton, the city's social media will focus on local and national history in an effort to share important and interesting information with city residents.

Mayor O'Connell is inviting students from the community to the City Council meeting each week to share poems, stories, songs and other dialogue that educates and inspires the community during Black History Month.

"There is such a deep history to be explored, and I'm thrilled to engage our youth in a meaningful way," said O'Connell.

For updates on the city's ongoing Black History Month activities, please refer to the Home page of the City of Taunton website (taunton-ma.gov) and City of Taunton Facebook page.

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